

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A black ink composition comprising a water soluble dye containing a single compound showing an absorption maximum at 440 to 540 nm with a half-value width of 90 nm to 200 nm for a visible region absorption spectrum in water, wherein the single compound has from 4 to 6 azo groups in one molecule.
2. (Original) A black ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the single compound is used as the color compensation dye.
3. (Currently Amended) A black ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the single compound ~~has from 2 to 6 azo groups in one molecule~~ and does not have a phenolic hydroxyl group.
4. (Previously presented) A black ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water soluble dye is contained by 0.1 to 4 mass% in black ink composition.
5. (Previously presented) A black ink composition according to claim 1, further comprising a water soluble black dye having from 2 to 4 azo groups conjugated to each other in one molecule.
6. (Original) A black ink composition according to claim 5, wherein the water soluble black dye has a hydroxyl group at a conjugation position of at least one of the azo groups.
7. (Previously Presented) A black ink composition according to claim 5, wherein the water soluble black dye has one or less heterocyclic ring in a color forming group.

8. (Previously presented) A black ink composition according to claim 5, wherein the water soluble black dye has an aggregate property.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording method comprising forming an image on an image receiving material by ~~using~~ utilizing an ink comprising the black ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the image receiving material comprises: a support; and an ink receiving layer containing white inorganic pigment particles on the support.